

TIMBER TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 7

JULY 1995

EDITOR: Ross Kingdon, 69 Dorchester Dr., Bramalea, Ontario, Canada, L6T 3E5.

TWENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY: Calgary 1995 will mark the 20th anniversary of CAWMC. Listed below are the cities in which those C.N.A. conventions have been held.

1976 - Ottawa	1977- Vancouver	1978- London
1979- Edmonton	1980- Montreal	1981- Toronto
1982- Winnipeg	1983- Moncton	1984- Hamilton
1985- Regina	1986- Toronto	1987- Calgary
1988- Charlottetown	1989- Quebec City	1990- Vancouver
1991- Toronto	1992- Montreal	1993- Moncton
1994- Hamilton	1995- Calgary (see you there)	

(Our CAWMC Breakfast meeting will be held on Sunday July 23rd from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Endroom)

HOWARD HARRIS has issued this anniversary wood flat similar to one of his flats made some years earlier. Howard may still have some for a S.A.S.E. by writing 6282 - 2 Emerald Links Dr., Greely, Ont., Can., K4P1M4. The church obverse is gold. The reverse is blue (printing and cross) with a gold leafy border across the top and bottom. The border is not shown in the photo copy. Actual wood size is 3 1/2" X 2 7/16".



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
107 Main St. Ottawa, Ont.
April 22, 1915 - 1995
In The Heart of Canada's Capital

Your editor recently received a package from member **John MacLean** who lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. John sent along some free woods for a future newsletter. Thank you John. He also sent a sample of his May 1995 show wood issued for the *Spring Rally in Halifax*. There were 200 issued and are available from John for \$1.00 each and a S.A.S.E. John's address is 103 Dorothea Dr., Dartmouth, N.S., B2W 2E7. John also still has remaining, six sets of the 13 different bank branches issued in 1994. These were pictured in the July 1994 issue of Timber Talk. Cost of each set is still \$15.00.

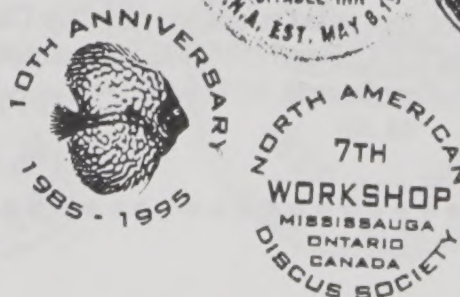
WE PREACH
CHRIST
CRUCIFIED
RISEN
AND
COMING AGAIN

IN HONOUR OF THE
80TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
AND THE FAITHFUL
PREACHING OF THE
GOSPEL OF JESUS
CHRIST. 1 COR. 15:3 & 4

SOUVENIR OF HOWARD, GRACE & MARY HARRIS



This wood was recently issued for a **7th workshop fish convention** held in mid June in Mississauga, Ontario. The obverse is bronze and the reverse is blue. There were 225 issued. I have no details yet on how one could obtain one of these woods.



UNLISTED WOODS.....by Norm Belsten

I have been informed by a few collectors that several woods that were previously listed were inadvertently left out of the last catalogue. This occurred during the cataloguing transition from Norm Wells to Howard Richardson, to myself. Most of the problem was in the years 1983 to 1988. Much of the trouble was in the numbering system, with two woods being given the same number. This resulted in one of them being left out. Several collectors have written me and sent photocopies of woods for me to check. If you can not find a wood in the listings or do not think it is listed, please drop me a line. I can't list those I do not know about. When I find a problem, I relist the wood with a reference to the previous number assigned. Hopefully this will fix the problem and it will not occur in the future. There are over 5500 woods listed on the computer, and I do not have pictures for all of them. I must, therefore, rely on other collectors for the information, as I, myself, do not have all the woods. With so many similar woods issued, sometimes just in a different colour, it is so easy to miss one. My address is 37 Neames Crescent, Downsview, Ontario, M3L 1K8.

CAWMC OFFICERS

President: PAT WHITE
 Vice President: EARL SALTERIO
 Secretary-Treasurer: AL MUNRO
 Past president and
 Chairman of the
 Board of Governors: NORM BELSTEN
 Elected Members of
 the Board of Governors:
 GARRY BRAUNWARTH, RUSS BROWN,
 WAYNE GILLCASH, DON ROBB,
 BARRY UMAN, LOU VESH.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Editor: ROSS KINGDON
 Membership Chairman: RON ZELK
 Fund Raiser: GARRY BRAUNWARTH
 Auction Coordinator: AL MUNRO



FREE WOOD OF THE MONTH

This Jackson Hose Fire Co. #3 100th Anniversary wood was obviously issued some number of years ago in Nyack, New York. It was sent to your editor by CAWMC member John Lawrence of West Haverstraw, New York. I do not know precisely how many were issued but imagine it would be of considerable quantity. The wood is dark green on both sides. Many thanks, John, for this donation to the membership.

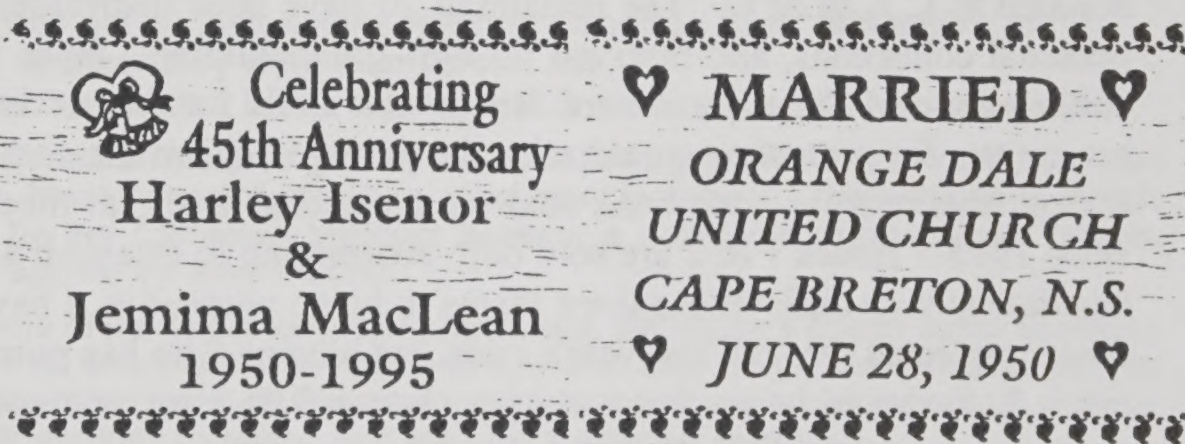
DUES: Membership dues in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors is \$10.00 per calendar year and should be forwarded to our Membership Chairman - Ron Zelk at R.P.O. Box 77575, 592 Sheppard Ave. W., Downsview, Ont. Canada, M3H 6A7.

Lou Vesh, your previous editor, and regular contributor to this newsletter, has sent in a photo ready article (page 4) on "**Birds Of My Garden**". This is a beautifully painted series of woods done on birds that are found around Lou and his wife Yvonne's home near West Guilford, Ontario. These woods are meticulously done as only Lou can do them. As the article states, issues 5 and 6 should be ready for the C.N.A. in Calgary. Lou always signs his notes and letters to me by saying "From your friend in the woods." This series is certainly a reflection of the countryside surrounding his home.

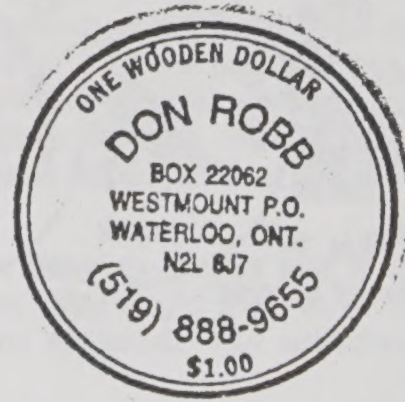
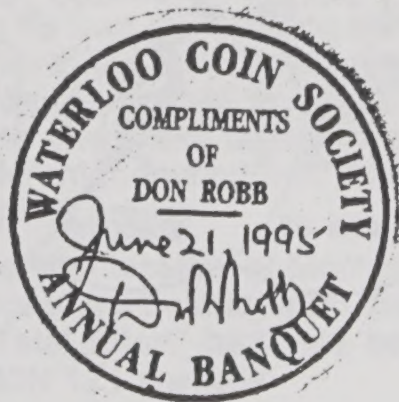
Lou also sent a picture of a wood he will give out at the C.N.A. in Calgary (shown here). Lou states, as well, that he will have a fourth wood to distribute in Calgary but he refuses to breathe a word as to what it is. In his words, it will remain "under wraps" until then. I'm looking forward to Calgary.



Member **Harley Isenor** has sent me this lovely flat which he had made to celebrate he and Jemima's 45th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Harley and Jemima. The printing is red on both sides. I'm not sure how many were made or if Harley has any remaining. Harley's address is 30 MacRae Ave. Sydney River, Nova Scotia. K0M 1S0.



Your editor recently attended the Waterloo Coin Society annual banquet. This banquet is always well attended and a very enjoyable evening. Everyone attending the banquet received this wood issued by CAWMC member **Don Robb**. It is red on both sides except for the date and signature which is black.



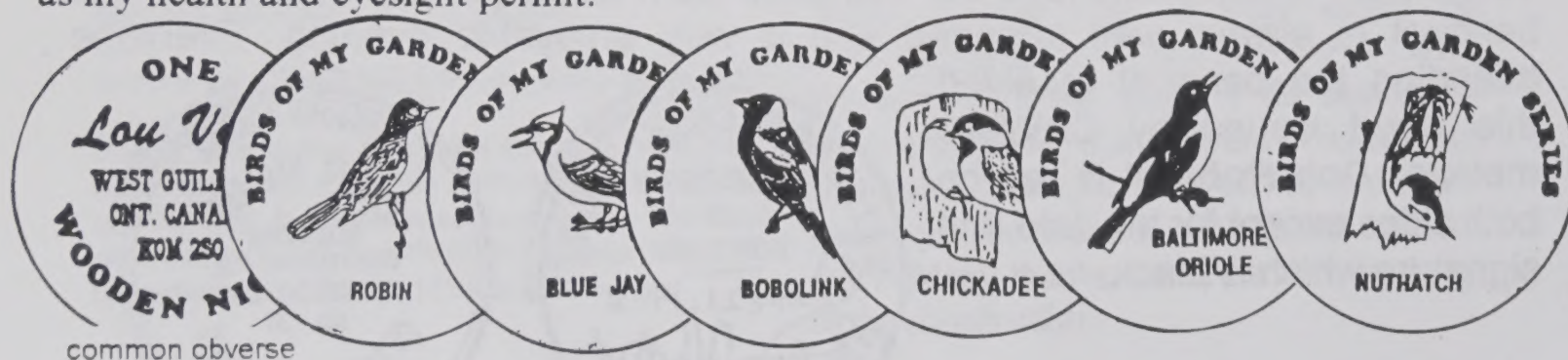
BIRDS OF MY GARDEN..... by Lou Vash

Although not deep into ornithology, birds have been of interest to me since I was in elementary school. Now, my pursuit of wooden nickels has given me a medium with which to combine both hobbies. Inspired by the many beautiful whooping crane woods produced by the Littrells, added to the woodsy surroundings in which I live, a series of wooden nickels featuring birds in this area is a natural choice.

Usually, I distribute wooden nickels free to anyone who shows an interest. In this series, however, some hand painting is involved, making the woods a little more difficult to produce than your average run-of-the-mill type. So, I decided, why not *sell* the woods for a nominal fee and donate the money to a worthwhile club? Since the woods are made at the rate of 2 per year, I hit on the price of \$3.00 per pair, hoping to sell a few and perhaps keep the remainder for family. I had no idea they would be so popular! If only I had the foresight to regulate sales by subscription! When first introduced at the C.A.W.M.C. meeting in Moncton in 1993 (CNA) the demand was overwhelming. Series 1 & 2 went like wildfire. Too late to install a subscription system and not wanting to cause further confusion I kept the issues low key until now.

Better late than never might not be true in this case. The woods are produced in quantities of 120 each issue. 100 of these are offered for sale, with all monies being donated to C.A.W.M.C. The remaining 20 have been distributed between my archives, personal collections, and reserved for our grandchildren. Since this is a strictly limited edition none of these woods are sent in the mails for fear of breakage. Packaging in boxes, etc. for protection would raise the postage beyond the cost of the woods. For this reason, these issues have been sold on a personal basis, at meetings, conventions, etc. since 1993. Issues 1 & 2 are sold out! Attempting to establish a subscription list at this late date is very difficult but there seems to be no alternative. I have a rather loose idea of those interested through last year's sales, but anyone who has purchased issues 1 & 2 but not 3 & 4, should let me know a.s.a.p. Issues 5 & 6 are near completion and should be available during the C.N.A. in Calgary this year.

For record purposes, the obverse is always the same, and no date is imprinted. The first 6 issues are shown below. They should continue at the rate of 2 per year for as long as my health and eyesight permit.



MORRISON STEEL WOOD INFORMATION SOUGHT

BY JOHN REGITKO



When I purchased the late Vic Burrough's wooden money collection from his widow a few years ago, it included a quantity of 1000 woods in two small cardboard boxes. One of these boxes contained the comment "PAID FOR 2 BOXES, JUNE 14/84" written in Vic's handwriting. The boxes contained the wood that is illustrated above and which was distributed with an issue of Timber Talk last year.

A search through his papers did not reveal the customer's name or any information on Morrison Steel, nor could his wife shed any light on who had ordered it. No one has ever written asking about the status of the order that was, judging by the note, obviously paid for but never delivered.

I telephoned the *Canadian Steel Construction Council* who confirmed three things:

- * Morrison Steel was not a member of the Association
- * Morrison Steel was not on their extensive list of Canadian Steel fabricators or sales agencies, whether they were members or not
- * Morrison Steel was not listed in the extensive U.S. mailing lists in their possession

The listings of the *Canadian Institute of Steel Construction* again did not show any Morrison Steel as being a member. Most Canadian structural steel manufacturers or miscellaneous metals fabricators are certified by the *Canadian Welding Bureau*, a non-profit organization. Again, Morrison Steel does not appear on their records.

Further calls to some of the larger steel manufacturers, distributors and/or sales agencies also lead to a dead end - no one I spoke to had ever heard of Morrison Steel! It could be that the company seized its operations since 1984, changed their name, was bought out by another company, or merged with another company and took on a different name.

Since the person that paid for the woods never followed up, I could not establish if this is a wooden nickel issue destined for the U.S. as I and other members I spoke to about this suspect. But then again, if the person had made contact demanding his woods, I never would have wound up with them and would not have been in a position to have them included with a mailing to members of CAWMC last year.

Vic had a unique way of creating his own dies, setting the individual pieces of type and any logos in an aluminum holder and then screwing them tightly together for insertion into his simple (old fashioned?) press. This home-made die was still intact in Vic's possessions when I obtained them. He could not have had someone else make up the woods or for one reason or another purchased or inherited them from a different manufacturer. There is no doubt that the die is one created by Vic for his unique hand printing press!

If any CAWMC member can trace the location of Morrison Steel or, better still, is the one who ordered them from Vic, I would appreciate hearing from them. We might then even find out who would have received them for "Total Effort" had they been shipped! My address is 90 Churchill Ave., NORTH YORK, Ont. M2N 1Z1 Canada.

This very interesting article, sent in by Lou Vesh was found in a late March 1995, Saturday edition of "The Courier" in Findlay, Ohio.

Wooden Nickels To Find Takers At Fostoria Show

By JIM MAURER
Staff Writer

FOSTORIA — Wooden money was born in Tenino, Wash., in 1931. But it matured in Fostoria under the guidance of the J.B. Rogers Co.

Today the flat pieces or round nickel-size "coins" have become collectors' items. The International Order of Wooden Money Collectors (IOWMC) will hold an annual convention during the Fostoria Coin Club convention from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday at the UAW Fellowship Hall, Plaza Drive, Fostoria.

The manufacture of the money began in the small Washington community of Tenino in 1931, according to Norm Boughton of Rochester, N.Y. Boughton is chairman of the IOWMC convention, which will feature a 50-foot, two-sided easel-style historical display of all the known wooden money items.

It's a rich history. The local bank in Tenino failed during the Great Depression, and it was 30 miles to the nearest town which had a bank, Boughton said. There was a shortage of change because people were hoarding cash during the period.

The local newspaper and the chamber of commerce decided to alleviate the inconvenience by having wooden quarters, half dollars and dollars printed so merchants could make change.

Meanwhile, since the early 1900s, the J.B. Rogers Co. of Fostoria had been writing pageant scripts, providing costumes and producing shows which detailed a particular area's history. The company used such activities as centennials, sesquicentennials and civic celebrations to provide the backdrop for elaborate productions, complete with fancy costumes.

Local residents would be sought to perform in the productions and dress in period costumes. Some of those costumes have been donated to the Fostoria Historical Society.

In the greatest marketing ploy, Boughton said, the company began circulating 2-inch by 4-inch wooden "coins" which were about one-eighth to one-sixteenth of an inch thick. A merchant would pay 5 cents for the "coin," which would

bear an advertisement and also commemorate the local event. The coins would be given as change during the festival.

People could then redeem the wooden coins at the event's headquarters, by a certain day and time, and receive a nickel for each. But the coins had to be unbroken.

Many times the local residents would forget to cash in the coins or decide to keep them as a souvenir.

"Don't take any wooden nickels," became the catch phrase.

"I think that's where the phrase came from," Boughton said. "People forgot to turn them in."

In 1968, the 62-year-old Boughton was collecting coins when he attended a sesquicentennial celebration in a New York town and saw the round nickels being distributed. He was hooked.

The IOWMC was in its infancy in the late 1960s. Formed in 1964, the collectors' club now offers 11 newsletters yearly and boasts 400 members. It will hold a business meeting during the show.

Club members offer "personal woods" which they have made for Christmas greetings, anniversaries, weddings or birthdays. These are usually distributed on a swap basis, Boughton said.

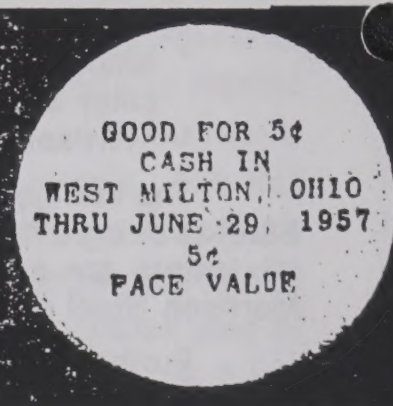
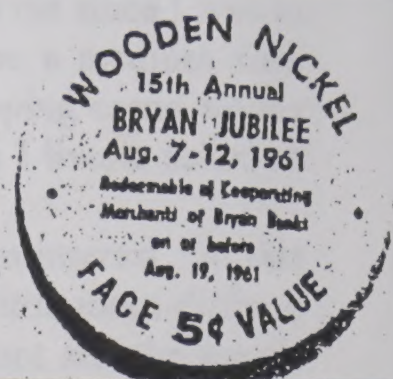
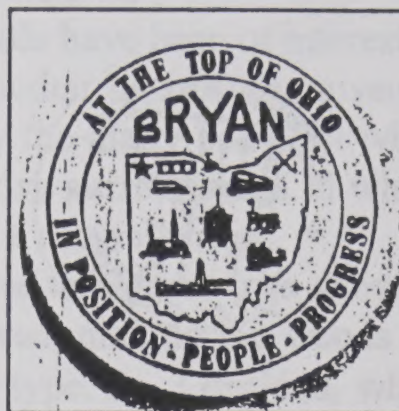
When he arrives in Fostoria on March 24, it will be Boughton's second trip to the city in two months.

In mid-January, he spent several days in Fostoria to establish plans for the exhibit and research the Rogers company at the local library and historical museum.

During the upcoming show, he hopes to find former employees of the J.B. Rogers Co. who may know why, where and how the money was made. The company was closed in 1976 after the country's bicentennial. It was sold to a Pittsburgh company, moved out of state and eventually was closed.

Several wooden coins have been particularly hard to find, according to Boughton. In 1961, Hamilton, N.Y., held its centennial celebration. It issued six colors of round wooden nickels. So far, Boughton hasn't located the brown coin.

Closer to home, when Fostoria celebrated its centennial in 1954,



Photos Courtesy of Coin World

THESE WOODEN COINS are a sampling of the items to be seen at the International Order of Wooden Money Collectors convention in Fostoria Sunday. The coins were mainly used to commemorate an event or festival.

the Rogers Co. made 32 different wooden nickels. The company had a contest to see if someone could collect at least one of each coin. Issuance of one of the coins was stopped when someone successfully collected all the 32 coins.

If you don't have much money, wooden money is a good hobby.

It's not expensive, Boughton said. The coins range in cost from 5 cents to \$100 for an original Tenino, Wash., piece.

There are between several hundred thousand and a million wooden money pieces in circulation, he said.

Besides serving as a symbol of festivals or anniversaries, the coins track the migration of the population toward the west, he said. At times, pictures of early settlers, pioneers and other "significant people" were placed on the coins.

For instance, a Fostoria-issued coin has a picture of Charles Foster, the city's namesake.

The search for the items is the job of the hobby.

"It's the quest, not the value," Boughton said. "The fun is in hunt. You take what you can and then upgrade your collection (with better quality pieces)."